

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound characterized in that it is chosen from:
 - the peptide represented by the sequence SEQ ID No: 1 below:

SEQ ID No: 1 Lys-Ala-Lys-Pro-Val-Gln-Lys-Leu-Asp-Asp-Asp-Asp-Gly-Asp-Asp-Thr-Tyr-Lys-Glu-Glu-Arg-His-Asn-Lys

and also:

- the homologs of this peptide exhibiting at least 60% similarity with the sequence SEQ ID No: 1 and comprising from 15 to 40 amino acids,
- the derivatives of this peptide selected from:
 - the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of this peptide,
 - the functional fragments of this peptide,
 - the chemical analogs of this peptide, chosen from those in which:
one or more amino acids of the peptide sequence have been replaced with their D enantiomer;
one or more amide peptide linkages (-CO-NH-) have been replaced with an isosteric linkage such as: -CH₂NH-, CH₂S-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH=CH- (cis and trans), -COCH₂-, -CH(OH)CH₂- and -CH₂SO-; one or more amino acids have been replaced with a non-natural amino acid,
- the chemical derivatives of this peptide, chosen from: des-alpha amino peptide compounds; substituted N-alpha acyl derivatives of the form RCO-, in which R represents an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl or aralkyl group, that is linear, branched or cyclic, comprising from 1 to 50 carbon atoms; derivatives substituted on the C-terminal acid function with a group chosen from -NH₂, and alkyloxy, alkylthio or alkylamino of the form -OR, -SR or -NHR, in which R represents an alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or aryl chain or an aralkyl group, that is linear, branched or cyclic, comprising from 1 to 50 carbon atoms, derivatives carrying a pharmacophore substituent, polymers of this peptide.

2. (Currently Amended) The peptide as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it exhibits at least 70% similarity with the sequence SEQ ID No: 1, even more preferentially 80%, preferably at least 90%, and even more favorably at least 95%, or better still 98%, similarity with the sequence SEQ ID No: 1.

3. (Currently Amended) The peptide as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising from 20 to 30 amino acids.

4. (Currently Amended) The peptide as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is a function fragment of the peptide SEQ ID No: 1 capable of inducing an immune response.

5. (Previously Presented) A peptide comprising at most 100 amino acids, characterized in that it comprises a sequence as claimed in claim 1, chosen from: SEQ ID No: 1, a function fragment of SEQ ID No: 1, a homolog of SEQ ID No: 1, a chemical analogue of SEQ ID No: 1 or a chemical derivative of SEQ ID No: 1.

6. (Currently Amended) A protein consisting of a peptide as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, coupled to a carrier protein.

7. (Currently Amended) An antibody ~~characterized in that it is produced by immunization of an animal with a peptide as claimed in~~ claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5 or a protein as claimed in claim 6~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The antibody as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that it is produced by immunization of an animal with the peptide of sequence~~ SEQ ID No: 1.

9. (Currently Amended) The antibody as claimed in claim 7 ~~or claim 8~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is a polyclonal antibody.

10. (Currently Amended) The antibody as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8, characterized in that~~ wherein it is a monoclonal antibody.

11. (Currently Amended) A fragment or derivative of an antibody as claimed in Claim 7 ~~any one of claims 7 to 10, characterized in that it is chosen from~~ selected from the group consisting of Fab, F(ab')₂ and ScFv fragments.

12. (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid ~~characterized in that it~~ that encodes a peptide as claimed in Claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5 or a protein as claimed in claim 6.~~

13. (Currently Amended) A vector ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising a nucleic acid as claimed in claim 12.

14. (Currently Amended) A recombinant cell comprising a nucleic acid ~~or a vector as claimed in claim 12~~ either one of claims 12 and 13.

15. (Previously Presented) A nonhuman transgenic organism comprising a nucleic acid as claimed in claim 12 in its cells.

16. (Currently Amended) A nucleotide probe or primer ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising a nucleic acid as claimed in claim 12.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A kit for detecting, *in vitro*, the presence of pathogenic leptospiral strains in a biological sample or contaminated water, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising a probe or an oligonucleotide or a pair of primers as claimed in claim 16.

21. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide or a protein or an antibody or a nucleic acid as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~, and a pharmaceutically acceptable support.

22. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is a vaccine.

23. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is a preparation of anti-PP antibodies for therapeutic use.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (New) An antibody produced by immunization of an animal with a protein as claimed in claim 6.

27. (New) A nucleic acid that encodes a protein as claimed in claim 6.

28. (New) A recombinant cell comprising a vector as claimed in claim 13.